

HONORING THE GOVERNMENT
SERVICE OF DAVID GOOTNICK

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN
RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2021

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank GAO Director David Gootnick for his 27 years of federal service, including 20 years at the Government Accountability Office. His leadership on 50 reports and testimonies covering the territories and freely associated states has been a critical source of information and insight for the Natural Resources Committee. In particular, I want to highlight David's five reviews of the implementation of minimum wage increases in American Samoa—beginning in 2010 and last reporting in 2020. These reports provided vital information that helped Congress monitor economic conditions in the territory and take appropriate actions to revise the schedule of America Samoa minimum wage increases. I thank David for his service, and congratulate him on his retirement. Best wishes to him on his future activities.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF CORPORAL BURL MULLINS

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2021

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Corporal Burl Mullins, who served in the United States Army during World War II and the Korean War and spent his life in service to our country. I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to Cpl. Mullins and his family for his courage and bravery, as his dedicated service cost him the ultimate price.

Corporal Mullins was born in Kentucky on December 19, 1926 and began serving in World War II on March 23, 1945. He continued to serve through the post-war period for one year and nine months. Remarkably, less than two years later, Cpl. Mullins enlisted for a second term of service on September 2, 1948 to serve in the Korean War.

At only twenty-three years old, Cpl. Mullins was reported Missing in Action on November 30, 1950 after enemy forces attacked his unit in the Chasin Reservoir, North Korea. While his remains originally couldn't be found, they were later recovered at the location of the battle where he went missing. It was determined that he was likely killed in action.

In June 2018, after nearly 70 years MIA, U.S. President Donald Trump and D.P.R.K. Chairman Kim Jong-Un conducted a summit meeting in Singapore where Chairman Kim promised to repatriate American remains collected by the D.P.R.K. during the Korean War. A month later, Cpl. Mullins' remains were returned home to the U.S. where he was reunited with his family. His family, who were unsure if they would ever know what happened to him, were glad to have closure and described it as a "wound finally healed."

Cpl. Mullins' return home was celebrated by the small Kentucky community where he grew up. His casket was escorted by a veterans

motorcycle group, and his funeral procession was met with community support, as some members of the community gathered to wave their American flags and pay their respects. The family is grateful to President Trump for the return of their loved one.

Madam Speaker, Corporal Burl Mullins was a courageous patriot who gave his life in service to our country. I am proud to honor him and his family.

HONORING HISPANIC HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2021

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Each year from September 15 to October 15, the history and culture of Americans whose ancestry can be traced from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America is recognized and celebrated. This observation was first established as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson in 1968. President Ronald Reagan later expanded the observance to a full month in 1988. This thirty-day period encapsulates many celebrations of independence for Latin American countries. September 15 is the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile also celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18.

During this month, we pause to recognize the profound influence of Hispanic Americans across the country. Guided by the promise of freedom and in search of a better life for themselves and their families, some of these individuals arrived with nothing but the clothes on their back and the hope of a better tomorrow. Once here, they charted their course, and created their own unique American destinies. In turn, their contributions have brought new ideas, new cuisines, new cultures to us all, and their presence here has created a more prosperous nation for all Americans. Hispanic Americans have had influence on practically every part of American history, from sports, to the fine arts, to science. Each day I am proud of their countless contributions to our country's story, and I would like to take this month to honor the crucial role that Hispanic Americans play in our society, and in Georgia's Sixth Congressional District in particular.

The Hispanic community in Georgia is proud, vibrant, and ever-growing. I am proud to represent so many of the men and women who have contributed so much to our communities each day—over half of Georgia's Hispanic population lives within the metropolitan Atlanta area. Hispanic Americans help contribute to what makes this Nation remarkable, and I am honored to lift up the voices of those who have selflessly dedicated their lives to building up themselves, their community, and this country. Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, Hispanic Americans from all walks of life demonstrated their commitment to community and selfless service in their daily lives. Doctors saved lives, essential frontline workers kept grocery stores and pharmacies operational, and trusted community leaders continue to encourage their friends and neigh-

bors to get vaccinated. I am routinely impressed by the spirit of service and leadership displayed by Hispanic Americans in my district who work hard to give back to their own communities. Their work should be recognized every day, but particularly during Hispanic Heritage Month. Therefore, I am honored to highlight two individuals who deserve special recognition: Natalia Garzón and Zulma Lopez.

Natalia Garzón was born in Colombia but raised in Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Panama. Her passion for diversity and connectivity is what led her to pursue a career in Literature, Creative Writing, and French. Prior to her work in Atlanta, Natalia worked with nonprofits in Central America. She is a founder of RISE, a nonprofit that seeks to empower students in low-income neighborhoods in Panama. In Atlanta, she has worked as a Teacher's Assistant at Montclair Elementary, an ESL Associate Tutor for Tibetan monks and nuns, and she has established a partnership between the LAA's Club de Lectura and the Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry at her alma mater Emory University. In September of 2020, Natalia was named the director of development for We Love BuHi, an organization that works to preserve the multicultural identity of Atlanta's Buford Highway. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Natalia and We Love BuHi pivoted their focus to providing the people of the Buford Highway Corridor with locally sourced and culturally centric food to families that were in need. Their efforts fed over 52,000 people, and impacted nearly 15,000 families. Once COVID-19 vaccinations were made available, Natalia was an instrumental part of We Love BuHi's multilingual vaccination outreach efforts, which partnered with other local organizations and the cities of Doraville and Dunwoody to train volunteers and run multilingual vaccination clinics.

Zulma Lopez identifies herself as an immigration attorney, a small business owner, and most importantly, a mom. She was born and raised in Puerto Rico, where she obtained her undergraduate degree and J.D. from the University of Puerto Rico. During law school, Zulma also juggled the responsibilities of being a mom to her two oldest sons. In 2007, she moved to Georgia to reunite with her childhood friend and now husband Dax Lopez, and gave birth to a daughter and son to complete her family. In 2014, she opened her own law practice, Lopez Immigration LLC, to give families their own shot at the American dream by representing them before United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and filing family-based immigration petitions. As both an immigration attorney and a small business owner, she is passionate about creating opportunities for women and minority business owners in DeKalb County. As a mother who balanced her own professional development and education while raising her sons, she feels strongly about supporting students from preschool through college. In 2020, Zulma was elected to represent House District 86 in the Georgia House of Representatives, where she serves as the only Latina in the Georgia General Assembly. As an elected official in North DeKalb County, Zulma represents some of the same constituents that I have the privilege of representing here in Congress. I am proud of our shared constituency.

It is my distinct honor and privilege to recognize two of the many Hispanic Americans who work hard every day to make a difference in